defects of the kind pointed out above and to enable proper supervision being exercised over the management of temples, it was highly desirable that the management of temples should be separated from the Land Revenue Department. Such a course would also remove the long-standing grievance of certain classes of His Highness' subjects who at present had no admission into the Land Revenue Department. But the separation should be done only after making out accurate lists of the properties which originally belonged to the several Devaswoms. The Government records would themselves furnish the required data and evidence. Under existing arrangements, it was made to appear that the Devaswoms were not self-supporting and that large sums of money from the general revenues were being spent annually on the Devaswoms. That was far from the truth. The examination suggested by him, if carefully conducted, would show that most Devaswoms had enough properties to yield large savings after meeting all expenditure. Mr. Ramachandra Row's report would also tell the same tale. He requested that the above matters might receive the careful consideration of Government, before the contemplated separation of Devaswom management from the Revenue Department was effected.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

136. Need for remedying the defects in the principle adopted for the revision of the *pathivus* in Sirkar Devaswoms.

Mr. P. Narayanan Bhattathiri (Member, Jenmi, Quilon Division) requested that, in the matter of the revision of *pathivus*, the advice of the *tantris*, *ooranmakars* and other *stanis* of the temple concerned, should be taken. There were several temples whose vast landed properties had been taken over by Government when the temples passed into their hands. There were many cases in which the Government had violently departed from carrying out the obligations and terms under which the *ooranmakars* permitted the Government to take over the management of their temples. Not only were those sacred obligations not honoured, but some of those temples had since been classed as 'minor' and the inhabitants were being asked to restore or re-build temples which had become non-existent. That was distinctly a rule of might over justice. As an instance, the Member mentioned that, in the Kavumbhagom *pakuthi*, Thiruvalla taluk, there was the Anurudheswaram temple which was the property of a Malayala Brahmin called Matathilokathu *alias* Azhiyatathillam. The *Illam* had large landed properties which were taken possession of by Government, and as a result of the temple having been classed as a minor Devaswom, the temple was now in a deplorable condition. If with the co-operation of the people an enquiry were made, several such cases would come to light. Whenever pollution occurred in a temple in any form, an enquiry was started to decide what steps should be taken as a palliative. Such an enquiry took time and defeated the very object of conducting pollution ceremonies. In the appointment of *santis* there were several factors to be taken into consideration in regard to their qualifications for the post. It was better to lay down that no appointment of a *santi* should be made without a certificate from the *tantri* of the temple concerned. The Member then pointed out that, in the present revision of *pathivus*, the provision made for some articles under *akathepaditharam* and for remuneration to Tantries was quite inadequate. As against that, there was extravagant provision under other items. He requested that Government should look into those things and order that the Tantries should be freely consulted before the revised *pathivus* are sanctioned.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

137. Need for the appointment of a Committee to enquire into the working of Devaswoms under the management of the Sirkar with a view to remedy the defects and irregularities existing at present.

Mr. Devan Vasudevan Nampiathiri (Member, Jenmi, Kottayam Division) deplored the present condition of the Devaswoms and observed that, though reforms were introduced about 10 or 12 years ago as a result of the recommendations of Mr. M. K. Ramachandra Row, their management had not improved very much. On the other hand, the complaint about mismanagement had become louder and keener. The reason for all that was that the public were not consulted and their views were not taken on the recommendations of Mr. Ramachandra Row. Though an officer of the

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status of Mr. Ramachandra Row was specially deputed to inquire into the question elaborately, there were several important matters on which it was not possible for Mr. Ramachandra Row himself to express a decided opinion. The question of landed properties of each Devaswom was one on which there had been a wide divergence of views even among officials. Again, the want of a policy for Government in regard to the Devaswoms was another vital point. Was Government an owner or trustee of the Devaswom properties ? That question was still undecided. The financial aspect of Devaswom administration was again a moot point. Has Government been a loser or gainer after it took up the management of the Devaswoms? Has Government been spending money from its general revenue towards the maintenance and up-keep of the temples, as contended by some ? Or has the Government been a gainer, as held by others? The last point for consideration was the efficient and satisfactory management of the Devaswoms. Was it not the duty of the Hindu Government to maintain intact the Hindu institution of the Devaswom Department, just like the Ecclesiastical (Christian) Department of the British Indian (Christian) Government ? If that was the duty of the Hindu Government of Travancore, how could that be carried out ? Would it not be better to take away the management of Devaswoms from the Land Revenue Department and place it under a separate head ? To consider those and other allied matters a Committee of officials and non-officials should be appointed and their report should be published for public criticisms, and further action taken in the light of the views and criticisms on the Committee's report.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

138. Desirability of establishing in every taluk Poor Houses for the helpless and, if that is not feasible, the establishment of one such house in each Division for the time being and the opening of more in course of time.

Mr. Ousep Avira Tharakan (Member, Nominated) thanked the Government for granting a dispensary at Thycattussery and observed that the number of poor and utterly destitute people who, on account of their blindness, lameness, disease, deformity or other causes, could not earn a living and were homeless, was increasing. The only protection for such a miserable section of humanity was either the shade of a tree or road-side where, as it often happened, they died. As they constituted a large percentage of the subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja, they were entitled to the protection of Government. In view of the large number of such destitute people everywhere in the State, the Member submitted that a Poor House should be opened in each taluk under the supervision of the Tahsildar or the President of the local T. I. C., as the case may be. If that was not possible, then one Poor House for each division should at least be opened. If Government could not run such institutions from public funds, liberal grants might be given to those who might establish them. The Member said that he was himself prepared to open one such institution in his taluk, if Government would give a liberal grant.

Dewan's reply.—I would not promise the award of grants now; but Government will be prepared to render all reasonable facilities to private gentlemen or bodies who come forward to open and maintain Poor Houses.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS.

139. Necessity for a Central Research Laboratory for Travancore.

Mr. T. K. Madhavan (Member, Nominated) said that the Indian Industrial Commission had impressed on the attention of the Government of India that it was the duty of the State to conduct scientific researches and to investigate the potentialities and possibilities of the natural resources of the country. That observation applied with equal force to Travancore which was rich in its natural resources. At the same time it must be said that nothing substantial had been done to develop the existing resources. There were very good prospects of research work being carried on by the Departments of Agriculture, Forest, Geology and the Museum and Public Gardens, if sufficient facilities were allowed to them. The recently sanctioned Bacteriological Laboratory attached to the General Hospital would no doubt be a very useful institution. It was well known that there were some diseases peculiar to Travancore such as

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